UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

13.14 SEASON

New Music Festival
Choirs in Concert

"Snowforms"

MacMillan Singers and Women's Chamber Choir
Hilary Apfelstadt, conductor
Frances Farrell and Tracy Wong, assistant conductors

Sunday, February 2, 2014
2:30 p.m. Church of the Redeemer
162 Bloor Street West

The Faculty of Music gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our presenting sponsors

Manulife Financial | For your future™

mbna

TD

"Snowforms"

MACMILLAN SINGERS

Hilary Apfelstadt, conductor
Christopher Dawes, accompanist

Drop Thy Still Dews Of Quietness **Matt Gaskin**
Winner, 2013 Student Composers' Choral Competition (b. 1978)

Süßer Friede **Aiden Hartery**
Honourable Mention, 2013 Student Composers' Choral Competition (b.1988)

Frances Farrell, conductor

Trois Chansons **Claude Debussy**
III. *Yver, vous n'estes qu'un villain* (1862 – 1918)

Six Chansons **Paul Hindemith**
V. *En Hiver* (1895 – 1963)

Un soir de neige **Francis Poulenc**
I. *De grandes cuillers de neige* (1899 –1963)
II. *La bonne neige*
III. *Bois meurtri*
IV. *La nuit le froid la solitude*

WOMEN'S CHAMBER CHORUS

Hilary Apfelstadt, conductor
Eunseong Cho, accompanist

Simple Songs for Modern Life (selections) **Gabriel Prokofiev**
Lieu Commun (b. 1975)
Stuck in the past
Tsukainasai

Tracy Wong, conductor

Snow by Morning **Joshua Shank**
(b. 1980)

Snowforms **R. Murray Schafer**
(b. 1933)

Winter Solstice **Paul Carey**
I. *at midnight…* (b. 1954)
II. *These nights pass slowly…*

Program Notes

Today's programme has two main components. It is both connected to the Faculty of Music's New Music Festival, in that it features works by student composers and also by Gabriel Prokofiev, the Roger D. Moore Distinguished Visitor in Composition, and it is also an acknowledgement of the winter season, hence the title "Snowforms." Virtually all of the music sung today was composed since the beginning of the 20th century, the one exception being the Debussy Chansons #3 (*Yver, vous n'estes qu'un villain*), that was composed in 1898, but later incorporated as the last of the *Trois Chansons* after Debussy completed the middle piece in 1911.

The two opening works, sung by MacMillan Singers, under the direction of Frances Farrell, a doctoral student in the choral conducting program, are by composition students, each of whom will tell you something about the music prior to performance.

The Debussy text setting of *Yver, vous n'estes qu'un villain* presents "an angry and shivering rebuke of winter – through which Charles (the poet) must have suffered in his cell – following by a distant but vivid recollection of the spring beauty he would not see again until he was forty-six." (Paine, 27). Debussy alternates angular detached articulation sung by the full chorus (representing winter) with more lyrical sections hinting at spring (sung by a solo quartet). One can imagine the isolation of the imprisoned poet, looking forward to freedom from the constraints of his situation.

Hindemith wrote his *Six Chansons* in four days, commissioned in 1939 by Swiss conductor, Georges Haenni, for his chorus, Chanson Valaisanne. The conductor selected the texts, all about nature. In *En hiver* ("in winter"), "the grim reaper has the cold to do his business for him, while at the same time it prepares the earth for spring's renewal." (Paine, 38). The music is marked by angular intervals and wide vocal ranges.

Poulenc composed *Un soir de neige* in 1944, during World War II. He chose harsh poetry by Eluard for this *a cappella* work, comprising four movements, and the bleakness of the texts is reflected in the jagged harmonies and texture of these pieces. Ranging from unison lines to six-part divisi, the compositions share striking sonic effects and a reflective nature. They are challenging for singers both musically and interpretively as they rely on acute hearing and deeply-felt emotion.
- Compiled by Hilary Apfelstadt

"Gabriel Prokofiev is a London-based composer, producer, DJ and founder of the NONCLASSICAL record label & club night. Composing music that both embraces and challenges western classical traditions, Gabriel has emerged at the forefront of a new approach to classical music in the UK at the beginning of the 21st century. Prokofiev's own distinctive sound is informed by his background as a producer of hip-hop, grime, and electro records, as well as his earlier involvement in electroacoustic music at York and Birmingham universities, which saw him win a Residency prize at the prestigious Bourges International Electroacoustic Music Competition in 1998." – Gabriel Prokofiev official website (www.gabrielprokofiev.com)

Simple Songs for Modern Life is a set of six songs written for female *a cappella* vocal trio, three of which is performed by the University of Toronto's Women's Chamber Choir today. *Lieu Commun* illustrates a society with dreams of a more adventurous life but is in reality stuck in a

repetitive and mechanical existence. The nostalgic *Stuck in the past* fondly mocks today's people who are that – stuck in the past – "whether it's musicians who only play music from the past, or people who only wear old-fashioned / retro clothing." *Tsukaisanai* shows people who are happily and blindly controlled by the technology around them, sounding akin to singing computers and televisions. It lends an upbeat and lively air, but has a subtle dystopian undercurrent.

"Joshua Shank received his undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa where he studied conducting with Weston Noble and composition with John Morrison and Neil Flory. He is quickly becoming recognized as a talented and innovative young composer whose music has been widely performed by high school and professional ensembles alike. In 2002, Joshua became the youngest composer ever awarded the Raymond W. Brock Student Composition Award by the American Choral Directors Association." - Joshua Shank, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc. (http://www.sbmp.com/ComposerPage.php?ComposerNum=0117)

With text from May Swenson's poem (*By Morning*), *Snow by Morning* shows the beauty of winter through the eyes of Shank: "It seems to me that, for children, there is no end to the amount of fun that is to be had on that day – that one day – after the first snowfall. This is the feeling I worked to capture as I sat down to compose."

Prominent Canadian contemporary composer R. Murray Schafer is known for his concentration in acoustic ecology (or soundscapes) – a study of the relationship between living beings and their environment through the intercession of sound. In his introduction to *Snowforms*, Schafer notes, "it has been the habit of observing the soft foldings of snow from my farmhouse window in Ontario that has inspired *Snowforms*." With the use of graphic notation, singers are directed to sing by pitch letters in a continuous portamento as suggested by the various shapes of lines and curves on the score. The piece is a mixture of humming and various Eskimo words for snow:

Apingaut	first snowfall
Qanit	falling snow
Sitidlorak	hard snow
Mauyk	soft snow
Akelrorak	newly drifting snow
Anio	snow for melting into water
Tiltuktortok	snow beaten down
Pokaktok	snow like salt
Aput	snow spread out

"Paul Carey studied composition with Alfred Blatter and Ben Johnston at the University of Illinois and his graduate studies were at Yale University. Carey's compositions have been performed by choirs worldwide and at ACDA, MENC, OAKE, and AGO conventions across America. In 2009 he was appointed lead choral teacher and conductor of the famed North Carolina Governor's School, held each summer in Raleigh, NC for 800 of the state's finest students in ten different disciplines. In 2009 and again in 2011 he was a featured guest composer/conductor of choirs in South Korea and Hong Kong." – Paul Carey Bio (www.paulcarey.net)

Carey wrote *Winter Solstice* with his fondness of New Mexico in mind, utilizing text by New Mexico poets Elizabeth Searle Lamb and Lonnie Howard. The music is set in the style of "night music" and presents both the beauty of winter solstice and the New Mexican landscape.

- Compiled by Tracy Wong

Text Translations

Wanterers Nachtlied (Wanderer's night song)
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832)
Süßer Friede (Sweet Peace)

You who are from heaven,
who quiets all sorrow and stillest pain,
And he who is doubly wretched
You doubly refresh.
Ah! I am tired of drifting!
For what is all this pain and joy?
Sweet peace,
Come, oh, come into my heart!

***Trois Chansons* (Three Songs)**
Charles, D'Orléans (1394 - 1465)
III. *Yver, vous n'estes qu'un villain*
(Winter, You Are Nothing but a Villain)

Winter, you are nothing but a villain;
Summer is pleasant and gentle,
As confirmed by May and April,
Who escort it evening and morning.

Summer clothes the fields, woods, and flowers
With its garb of greenery
And many other colors,
According to the laws of nature.

But you, Winter, are much too full
Of snow, wind, rain, and hail.
You should be banished into exile.
Without mincing words, I'll speak plainly:
Winter, you are a villain!

***Six Chansons* (Six Songs)**
Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)
V. *En Hiver* (In Winter)

In winter, murderous death
enters the houses;
it seeks out the sister, the father,
and plays them its violin.

But when the earth moves
under the spade of spring,
death runs in the streets
and greets the passers-by.

Un soir de neige (A Night of Snow)
Paul Eluard (1895-1952)
I. *De grandes cuillers de neige*
(Big Scoops of Snow)

Our frozen feet collect
Big scoops of snow
And with a harsh word
We collide with obstinate winter
Each tree has its place in the sky
Each rock its weight upon the earth
Each brook its running water
We have no fire.

II. *La bonne neige* (The Good Snow)

The good snow the black sky
The dead branches the distress
Of the forest laden with traps
Shame on the pursued animal
The flight like an arrow into the heart

The traces of an agonized prey
"Tallyho', and it is always
The most beautiful wolf and it is always
The last one alive who threatens
The total aggregation of death.

III. *Bois meurtri bois perdu*
(Woods Bruised Woods Lost)

Woods bruised woods lost from a winter voyage
Vessel where the snow gets a foothold
Woods of asylum dead woods where I dream without hope
Of the sea of fractured mirrors

A great momentum of cold water seized the drowned
The throng of my body suffers from it!
I weaken I crack into pieces
I confess my life I concede my death
I acknowledge others.

IV. *La nuit le froid la solitude*
(The Night the Cold the Loneliness)

The night the cold the loneliness
They locked me up carefully
But the branches sought their way into the prison
All about me the grass found the heavens
They sealed the heavens
My prison came crashing down
The living cold the scalding cold had me well in hand.

French translations are used with permission from *Annotations and Translations of Choral Repertoire, Volume III, French and Italian*. Gordon Paine, editor. (earthsongs, 2007.)

Biographies

DR. HILARY APFELSTADT is Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Conducting at the University of Toronto. She is also Artistic Director of Exultate Chamber Singers in Toronto. Raised in Nova Scotia, she earned degrees from the University of Toronto, the University of Illinois, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Formerly Director of Choral Activities and Associate Director of the School of Music at the Ohio State University (1993 – 2010), she has conducted choirs at divisional and national conferences of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and conducted the U of T MacMillan Singers at Podium 2012, the national conference of the Association of Canadian Choral Communities (ACCC). She has led choral festivals in Europe, and at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Centre in New York. In 2009, she conducted the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in a live broadcast of *Music and the Spoken Word*. She has directed all-state choruses in more than 30 states and led the 2011 Ontario Youth Choir. She will conduct the National Youth Choir of Canada in 2014. Dr. Apfelstadt was a member of the Robert Shaw Festival Singers and recorded two Grammy award winning CD's with them in France.

A native of Halifax, **FRAN FARRELL** pursued her music studies in Winnipeg, graduating with both Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Manitoba. She subsequently earned a Master's Degree and an Artist's Diploma in vocal performance fromMcGill University. Prior to entering the Doctoral program in Choral Conducting at the University of Toronto, Fran spent ten years as a high school music teacher with the Halifax Regional School Board where she directed an auditioned youth choir Soundtrax, and established the Halifax All-City Music Vocal Jazz Ensemble in 2012. She served as guest conductor of Juvenata, a choral festival in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, and as guest conductor of the Nova Scotia Youth Choir. Fran also conducted the Manitoba Provincial Senior Honour Choir and the Winnipeg #1 School Division Senior Honour Choir. Most recently, Fran was invited to work with Kokopelli in Edmonton, Alberta.

TRACY WIE WEN WONG studied in University College Sedaya International (UCSI) Malaysia and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Newcastle Australia with high distinction, and was awarded the Madge Hoy Prize for the student with the best final year pass in Piano Studies. She sang with The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir, Australian National Champions for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Choir of the Year 2006. From 2006 - 2013, Tracy was Assistant Academy Director of Young Choral Academy (YCA) Malaysia, representing Malaysia at various international choral events and with great success. Tracy served as guest conductor for the 1st Brunei Choir Festival (2012) and 10th Malaysian Choral Eisteddfod (2011). Currently, she is a candidate for the Master in Music (Music Performance), specializing in Choral Conducting at University of Toronto under the tutelage of Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, and holds a Teaching Assistantship position with the Women's Chamber Choir. In addition, she is the Assistant Artistic Director for the Mississauga Festival Youth Choir.

MacMillan Singers

SOPRANO
Patricia Auchterlonie
Hanné Becker
Yvette Coleman
Laura D'Angelo
Frances Farrell*
Rebecca Genge
Elisabeth Hetherington
Lynn Isnar
Maeve Palmer
Hannah Tarder-Stoll
Tracy Wong

ALTO
Shulammite Chow
Emily D'Angelo
Natalie Carmen DiNardo
Siobhan Donovan
Jocelyn Fralick*
Whitney Henderson
Megan McCarthy
Ryan McDonald
Alison Muir
Leanne Deborah Piller
Jessica Leigh Wright

TENOR
Andrew Adridge
Joseph Crimi
Nicholas Cunha
James Duong
André-Louis Heywood*
Martin Siu Ting Lee
Lorenzo Madrazo
Damien Macedo
Conor Murphy
Antonios Varahidis

BASS
Stuart Beaudoin
David Debono
Phat Le
Andrew Lieflander
Adrian Ling
Mathias Memmel+
Mark Ramsay*
Lutzen Riedstra
Daniel Robinson
Daniel Ryan
Peter Wiseman

Women's Chamber Choir

SOPRANO I
Sarah Bissonnette
Eliza Jane Cassey
Mary Constance Christidis
Christina Hepelle
Maki Ishida
Stephanie Plummer
Nila Rajagopal
Charlotte Siegel
Stephanie Tacit
Zi Xin Wang
TracyWong

SOPRANO II
Sydney Baedke
Stacy Collins +
Laura Crowe
Gabriela Silvia Farias
Laura Finlan
Saira John
Yujene Oh
Alexandra Park
Leanne Deborah Piller
Clarisse Tonigussi
Rebecca Townsend
Chanelle Tseng

ALTO
Kari Abraham
Catherine Alulio
Sarah Basciano
Emma Bergin
Eun Sun Chung
Marina Davis
Jardena Gertler-Jaffe
Ashley Harris
Daphne Ko
Hyunmin Lee
Danièle Loach
Edmee Nataprawira
Katrina Olsen
Tamar Rubin
Kate Seo
Xiangyue Sun
Aubrey Tham
Marta Vodinelic
Veronica Vuong

* Section leaders
+ Managers

Thank you for your support!

The Faculty of Music gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the individuals, foundations, associations and corporations who gave annual gifts of $1,000 or more between May 1, 2012 to October 15, 2013, in support of our students and programs. Thank you for the part you are playing in advancing the cause of music education in Canada.

Mark Abbott
Lillias Cringan Allward
Raymond C. K. Ang
Hilary J. Apfelstadt*#
ARIAS: Canadian Opera Student Development Fund
Neville H. Austin*
Irene Reimanis Aziz and Gregory James Aziz
BMO Financial Group
John and Claudine Bailey
Lee Bartel# and Linda Cameron
Florence Barwell
William H. Bateman
John Beckwith* and Kathleen McMorrow
Christie and Will Bentham
Bruce Blandford# and Ron Atkinson
Jean Bohne
Walter M. and Lisa Balfour Bowen
The estate of James Briegel
David G. Broadhurst
Howard Cable
Melissa Campbell
Glenn H. Carter
Larry W. Chambers
Caryl Clark#
Al and Malka Green
Earlaine Collins
Marilyn E. Cook
Robert Cook
Ninalee Craig
Denton Creighton and Kris Vikmanis
Vreni and Marc Ducommun
The estate of J. Bruce Duncan*
Gerard Dunnhaupt
M. Jean Edwards
Robin Elliott*#
Brigid Elson
Beatrice Fischer
Gladys and Lloyd Fogler
Gordon Foote#
William F Francis
Mary Craig Gardner
Anne E. Gibson
Susan C. Girard
Merle H Gobin-Valadez
Morton Greenberg
Nancy E. Hardy*
Ethel Harris
J. Russell Hartenberger#
The William and Nona Heaslip Foundation
Jerry Heffernan
The Honourable Paul T. Hellyer
Dianne W. Henderson
Harcus C. Hennigar*#
Carolyn Heron
The estate of Leonore V. Hetherington
The estate of John A. Hethrington
J. Hobbs
Richard and Donna Holbrook
Alan Horne
Dean Hughes
Michael and Linda Hutcheon
Jackman Foundation
The estate of Ethel Berney Jackson
JAZZ.FM91
The Norman and Margaret Jewison Charitable Foundation
Marcia and Paul Kavanagh
Keith Foundation
William and Hiroko Keith
Ken Page Memorial Trust
Helen and Arthur Kennedy
Hans Kluge
Ingeborg Koch
Murray and Marvelle Koffler
Midori Koga#
Kevin Komisaruk# and Jeffrey Steele
Patricia Kraemer
Victor Kurdyak
Daniel Kushner
Robert and Carolyn Lake
Leslie and Jo Lander
Megan Lau
John B. Lawson
Jim Lewis#
Patrick Li*
The estate of R. Douglas Lloyd*
V. Lobodowsky
Elizabeth Lockett
Long & McQuade Musical Instruments
Lorna MacDonald#
Gillian MacKay#
Bobby and Gordon MacNeill
Donald R. McLean*# and Diane M. Martello
The estate of Alice Matheson
Angela McPeek
Don Melady and Rowley Mossop
Irene R. Miller
Sigmund and Elaine Mintz
Roger D. Moore
Ruth Morawetz
Sue Mortimer
Sylvia Mureddu
Mike Murley#
Music Toronto
The Nandan Fund
Paul and Nancy Nickle
Wendy Nielsen#
Phillip Nimmons#
James Norcop
Paul W. O'Connor
Cristina Oke
Mary Ann Parker#
Adrianne Pieczonka* and Laura Tucker
Wanda Plachta
Brett A. Polegato*
Terry Promane#
Paul E. Read*
Rodney and Evette Roberts
Martin Rodenburg
Shauna Rolston# and Andrew Shaw
The Ryckman Trust
Jeffrey Reynolds#
Chase Sanborn#
Elvino Sauro
Ezra and Ann Schabas
Bruce Schaef
June Shaw
Terry Sheard
Stephen and Jane Smith
David Smukler
The Sound Post
John and Ellen Spears
Gunhilde Stahl
Darrell Steele*
Patricia and David Stone
The Stratton Trust
Janet Stubbs*
Barbara and John Sutherland
Ann D. Sutton
Brian Tanner
Ian and Kath Taylor
John Terauds
Lisa Teskey
Richard Iorweth Thorman
Riki Turofsky* and Charles Petersen
Catherine Ukas
U of T Women's Association
Sandra K. Upjohn
Wayne C. Vance
William Waters
Daniel G. Weinzweig
Women's Art Association of Canada
Women's Musical Club of Toronto Foundation
Lydia Wong*#
Yamaha Canada Music Ltd
Marina Yoshida
Jacob S. Ziegel
3 friends of the Faculty of Music

*Faculty of Music alumnus
#Faculty of Music faculty or staff

For information on giving opportunities at the Faculty of Music please contact Bruce Blandford at 416-946-3145 or make a gift online at https://donate.utoronto.ca/music